

# **Currituck County Comprehensive Transportation Plan**

## **Steering Committee Meeting**

**March 24, 2010 6:00 PM, 120 Community Way, Barco, NC**

### **Attendees**

Dan Scanlon	Currituck County Manager
Peter Bishop	Currituck County Economic Development Director
Karen Pierce	Currituck Resident
Barry Hobbs	NCDOT – Division 1
Steven Lambert	Albemarle RPO
Gretchen Byrum	NCDOT- Division 1, District 1
John Sawyer	Currituck Resident
Barbara Marzetti	Corolla Resident
Jean-Paul Peron	Carova
Manly West	Planning Board
Ben Woody	Currituck County Planning Director
Tracy Roberts	NC Turnpike Authority
John Page	NC Turnpike Authority
Robert Brown	Corolla Resident
David Palmer	Economic Development Advisory Board
Kerry Morrow	NCDOT- Transportation Planning Branch

### **Introductions**

Kerry Morrow opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Each attendee introduced himself/herself to the group.

### **Meeting 2 Minutes**

Group reviewed the first meeting minutes

### **Draft Deficiency Locations**

Kerry gave committee members copies of the draft deficiency map and inventory spreadsheet for the analyzed road network. She went over these handouts, and pointed out that the spreadsheet shows the 2008 Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT), estimated 2035 AADT, growth rate and Volume/Capacity ratio for each segment of road within the analyzed road network. She explained that the map and spreadsheet both highlighted the road segments that are projected to approach or exceed capacity in the study horizon year 2035. Kerry asked that the committee review the traffic counts and growth rates and asked if the information appeared to look accurate. A couple members of the committee asked how and when AADT counts are gathered, and Kerry was unable to give an in depth response, but assured the committee that she would look into it and provide further information. Kerry also stated that three

road projects were on the TIP list, R-2574, R-4429 and R-2576 (Mid-Currituck Bridge). Barry Hobbs and Gretchen Byrum commented that R-4429 is already complete, and that the alignment has not yet been determined for R-2574. A resident asked if the Mid Currituck Bridge will affect the traffic counts. John Page of NC Turnpike Authority stated there would likely be more traffic north of the bridge. Dan Scanlon suggested we put the 168 Bypass around Moyock (that was previously recommended in the 1999 Thoroughfare Plan) into the CTP. The committee generally agreed with this suggestion. Committee members continued the discussion and marked places on the map where other possible improvements to highways and intersections could be made. Peter Bishop mentioned a plan for a future Eco-Park in northern Camden County, along US 17, and expressed an interest in some type of connector to Moyock being included in the CTP.

### **Bicycle and Pedestrian Plans**

Steve Lambert asked the committee to identify areas of the county where bike and pedestrian routes are desired. He presented a map that showed the areas that had previously been identified through the CTP survey results. Several Committee members marked areas on the map; one area identified was between the different private communities in Corolla, where there needs to be more connectivity, which bike paths could provide. Steve stated that he will have draft recommendations for the next meeting.

### **Mid-Currituck Bridge**

Tracy Roberts and John Page, of North Carolina Turnpike Authority (NCTA), made a presentation on the Mid-Currituck Bridge Project. They explained how the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was expected to be released to the public in a week or two, and that there will be a period of time for public comment, ending on June 7, 2010. They explained that the purpose of the project was to improve traffic flow, reduce travel time and substantially reduce hurricane evacuation times from the outer banks in an emergency. They talked about the tolls, explaining that they would use electronic tolls in the future, and use manual tolls for up to the first ten years. The committee suggested that a system similar to EZ Pass should be used. Manly West asked if there was a possibility that the bridge would be toll-free for residents. Tracy responded that they have gotten many requests for that, and at no decision had been made about that yet. Barb asserted that discounted or no toll for residents would not be possible to due current law. NCTA representatives were unable to comment on this. Barb asked how many housed would be displaced in Currituck County, to which John responded that there would be none. He said there would be some impacts, but zero displacements. John explained hurricane evacuation policies and procedures. NCTA announced the dates of the upcoming public hearings for the Mid-Currituck Bridge: May 18- Nags Head, May 19-Outer Banks Center for Wildlife Education, May 20- Currituck County Center. NCTA also announced the tentative schedule for the bridge, as follows:

Public Hearings – May 2010  
Preferred Alternative/LEDPA – August 2010  
FEIS – September 2010  
ROD – December 2010  
Open to traffic - 2015

### **Closing Notes**

Kerry brought the meeting to a close, and said she was aiming to have the next meeting in late May.